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RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND OF THE  
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR

1957





# RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR **1957**

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THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY  
*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the Rural District during 1957.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 24890. The excess of births over deaths during 1957 was 321 and the rate of natural increase is thus 12.9 per 1000 population. There were 457 (242 male and 215 female) live births which give a rate per 1000 population of 24.1 corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 18.3 and that for England and Wales 16.1 per 1000 population.

The death rate based on 136 deaths (82 male and 54 female) after correction for comparability is 10.3 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales and for the administrative county respectively was 11.5 and 9.7 per 1000 population.

The deaths at 65 years and over represent 56 per cent of the total deaths (136) of which 36 occurred at 75 years and over.

The death rate in infants under one year of age (infant mortality rate) is 35.0 per 1000 live births; there were actually 16 (9 male and 7 female) such deaths in 457 live births during 1957. The corresponding figures for this rate in the administrative county were 22.9 per 1000 live births and 23.0 per 1000 live births for England and Wales.

The mean infant death rate during the period 1948-57 was 25.5 per 1000 live births based on an average of 411.2 live births and 10.5 infant deaths during the period.

The neonatal (under 4 weeks of age) deaths numbered 12 (8 male and 4 female) and this gives a rate of 26.2 per 1000 live births.

Of the 16 deaths in children under one year, 12 occurred in the first month, the survival time after birth ranging from ten minutes to three weeks. Four died in their own homes ; two from congenital heart defects at two and three months respectively, and two from prematurity after one hour and six hours respectively. The remaining 12, including 2 who survived a month after birth, died in various hospitals outside the Rural District, eight from prematurity (including one twin birth) and one each from hydrocephalus, congenital heart defect, cerebral haemorrhage, and as the result of eclampsia in the mother.

Death rates from special causes gave the following rates per 1000 population, for cancer 1.0 ; coronary disease 1.2 ; and for cerebral haemorrhage 0.6.

The proportional mortality rates of principal diseases expressed as a proportion of the total deaths during the year were diseases of the heart and circulation other than coronary disease 18.4 per cent ; cancer 19.1 per cent ; coronary disease 22.1 per cent ; cerebral vascular lesions 11.0 per cent, and pneumonia, bronchitis and influenza 4.4 per cent.

The *incidence rates* per 1000 population for the following *notifiable diseases* in the District during 1957 were, scarlet fever 0.3 ; whooping cough 1.6 ; respiratory tuberculosis 0.5, and measles 13.7.

Notifications of infectious diseases numbered 406 for the District during 1957 including 12 respiratory tuberculosis, 1 poliomyelitis and 342 measles.

The months of greatest incidence were May and June ; 239 notifications were in respect of the age group 5-10 years.

Three hundred and forty two children under 15 years of age completed primary inoculations against diphtheria during 1957 in the Rural District ; 207 were under one year of age, 81 between 1-5 years and 54 between 5-15 years of age. Two hundred and fifty three reinoculations were also done in the Rural District during the year. Three hundred and eleven primary inoculations against whooping cough were also carried out in the Rural District during the year ; one hundred and eighty nine of these were under one year of age.

The number of vaccinations against smallpox during the year was three hundred and eighty.

In addition, immunization against poliomyelitis begun in the previous year was carried out in the Rural District during 1957. The precise numbers protected in this way are included in the County aggregate and are not yet available for individual districts.

The number of live births was 457 in 1957 in the Rural District.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and all my colleagues at all times.

*I have the honour to be,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
RODERICK MACKAY,  
Medical Officer of Health.*

5th May, 1958.

## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	I. L. FISHER, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector
Additional Public Health Inspector	R. WILKINSON, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector
Rodent Operator	R. H. COOMBS

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts United Districts, viz. Marlborough M.B., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office. He holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council duties in connection with the welfare services for which it is mainly responsible.

The Chief Public Health Inspector together with his assistant carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, with whose duties those of the Public Health Inspector are complementary, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Public Health Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee and Housing Committee of the District Council.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres .... .... .... .... .... ....	63455
Number of Parishes .... .... .... .... .... ....	17
Population in mid-1957 as estimated by the Registrar	
General .... .... .... .... .... ....	24890
Number of inhabited houses .... .... .... .... ....	3803
Number of new houses erected in 1957 :—	
By Local Enterprise .... .... .... ....	54
By Local Authority .... .... .... ....	27
Rateable Value .... .... .... .... ....	£299080
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (estimated) ....	£1200

## VITAL STATISTICS

			M.	F.	Total
Live Births	....	....	242	215	457
Legitimate	....	....	230	210	440
Illegitimate	....	....	12	5	17
Still Births	....	....	—	1	1
Legitimate	....	....	—	1	1
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	....	....			24.1
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales					16.1
Number of Deaths from all causes	....	82		54	136
Death Rate	....	....			10.3
Death Rate for England and Wales	....				11.5
Deaths of Infants under one year :—					
Total	....	....	9	7	16
Legitimate	....	....	9	7	16
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births					35.0
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales					23.0

*NOTE :*

The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1957, after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

*BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,  
1957*

	Amesbury R.D.	Administrative County	England and Wales
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.)	.... 24.1	18.3	16.1
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.)	.... 10.3	9.7	11.5
Death Rate of Infants under one year (per 1000 live births)	.... 35.0	22.9	23.0

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The total number of infectious diseases notified during 1957 was 406, of which 342 were in respect of measles and 39 for whooping cough. There was no considerable incidence of scarlet fever, food poisoning, or dysentery, but sporadic cases of these diseases undoubtedly occur to an extent greater than notification numbers would appear to indicate. Generally, the attacks are so mild as to escape notice almost, and most respond to modern treatment; although, not infrequently, a persistent excretor gives trouble and it is then largely due to the patience and application of the family doctor that the carrier is rendered fit to return to his food handling job perhaps, or even to go back to school.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

Twelve notifications were received in respect of respiratory tuberculosis.

## **IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION**

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations against diphtheria, whooping cough, and poliomyelitis are carried out at welfare clinics and at special sessions under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox.

Two hundred and seven infants under one year old were inoculated against diphtheria in 1957 in the Rural District. The number of live births for the same year was 457.

The total number primarily immunized against diphtheria in 1957 in the Rural District was 342.

The following numbers were immunized during the last ten years.

Age Group (Years)	Years										
	1948	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	'56	'57	Total
Under 5	123	210	172	360	268	190	350	202	297	288	2460
5-15	30	124	42	48	55	40	45	57	53	54	548
Total	153	334	214	408	323	230	395	259	350	342	3008

The total number of primary vaccinations performed during the year in the Rural District was 380 of which 239 were under one year of age.

In addition, a total of 311 children were primarily immunized against whooping cough of whom 189 were under one year old, 86 between 1-2 years of age, and 82 between 2-9 years of age.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

With the commencement of work on the first stages of the regional water supply scheme, including the provision of mains in the Bourne valley, the situation is to that extent improved, and one can look forward to the ultimate provision of a wholesome supply to replace many unsatisfactory sources of domestic water supply at the present time, often from grossly polluted shallow wells. Existing public supplies, which are mostly chlorinated, continue to be adequate in quality ; but as to quantity, the demands in Amesbury for instance still necessitate supplementing from the Durrington supply, and attention is once again drawn to the reminder in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector about the inadequacy of both the pumping facilities and lack of storage at Shrewton, where the provision of an alternative supply in this populous area in the event of a breakdown could prove extremely difficult.

## **FOOD SUPERVISION**

No considerable incidence of infective disease that could in any way be connected with food occurred in the District during the year, nor has there been any great difficulty in applying the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations in the larger places where water supply is available. This cannot be said of the more rural areas where both water supply and drainage are unknown, and where such water as is available is grossly contaminated.

The occurrence from time to time of *abortus* infection in milk has generally been overcome by co-operation between the farmer, the veterinary surgeon, and the authority ; milk is sent for pasteurization without question in these circumstances, and veterinary aid is readily given to do whatever may be possible in maintaining an *abortus* free herd. A great deal of the District's milk is pasteurized.

It is difficult to control the sale of water cress often picked surreptitiously from streams of questionable bacterial purity. It is conceivable that this medium could readily give rise to outbreaks of typhoid, given a carrier having access to the stream, and every possible means of pointing out this danger to the public, would in the long run be the more effective method of control. It seems inequitable that water cress, often contaminated, picked haphazardly, should find its way to the market to be sold with cress of unquestionable wholesomeness from properly tended, pollution-free beds.

## **SEWERAGE**

It is gratifying to note that there is reasonable prospect of a sewerage system being provided at Shrewton, where such provision is fully justified on grounds of population and public health.

## PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1948-57

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Population*	14050	24750	21860	25470	24430	24080	26970	24770	25190	24890
Live Births	364	387	389	408	380	420	408	424	475	457
	25.9	15.6	17.8	16.0	15.6	17.4	15.1	17.1	18.9	18.4
Still Births	8	6	11	8	8	8	8	13	20	1
	21.5	15.3	27.5	19.2	20.6	18.7	19.2	29.7	40.4	2.1
Total Deaths	126	136	130	141	147	110	107	118	142	136
	9.0	5.5	5.9	5.5	6.0	4.6	4.0	4.8	5.6	5.5
Infant Deaths	14	9	10	8	8	16	8	9	7	16
	38.5	23.3	25.7	19.6	21.1	23.8	19.6	21.2	14.7	35.0
Tuberculosis Deaths	6	4	7	1	3	1	0	1	0	0
	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cancer Deaths	20	18	17	28	25	18	18	16	27	26
	1.4	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.0
Pneumonia Deaths	2	3	5	7	10	8	4	2	5	3
	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1

\*Includes armed forces from and including 1949  
 N.B. The corresponding rate is given underlined together with the figures on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 total births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.

## NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1957

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec. Total

	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery .....	2	—	9	10	96	142	55	23	3	2	—	—	342
Measles .....	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
Scarlet fever .....	—	2	9	4	6	—	1	—	—	12	4	—	39
Whooping cough .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Pulmonary tuberculosis .....	2	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	1	—	3	—	406
Totals .....	5	4	23	16	102	142	60	25	4	4	16	5	406

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1957

Disease	Age (years)						Disease	Age (years)					
	Total	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-		10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Dysentery .....	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles.....	342	3	19	23	42	35	208	11	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet fever .....	7	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough .....	39	—	3	2	3	4	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	394	3	23	25	47	39	239	13	—	3	1	1	—

## CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1957

			M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	I	I
4	Diphtheria	....	....	—	—
5	Whooping cough	....	....	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	—	—
8	Measles	....	....	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasms, stomach	....	I	3	4
11	,,    ,,    lung-bronchus	....	3	—	3
12	,,    ,,    breast	....	—	—	—
13	,,    ,,    uterus	....	—	2	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	2	—	14
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	—	3	3
16	Diabetes	....	—	I	I
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	7	8	15
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	22	8	30
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	3	—	3
20	Other heart disease	....	5	8	13
21	Other circulatory disease	....	6	3	9
22	Influenza	....	I	—	I
23	Pneumonia	....	I	2	3
24	Bronchitis	....	I	I	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	....	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	....	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	—	I	I
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	I	—	I
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	....	I	2	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	10	9	19
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	4	—	4
34	All other accidents	....	I	I	2
35	Suicide	....	2	—	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	—	—	—
Total of all causes			82	54	136

RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR

1957

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour of presenting my ninth Annual Report of work carried out by the Public Health Department of the Council during the year 1957.

The tables and particulars in the Report are in conformity with requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 1/58 dated 13th January, 1958.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and co-operation given during the year.

It also gives me great pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the help given by the Medical Officer of Health in the discharge of our joint responsibilities and to express my thanks to my colleagues in other Departments for co-operation at all times.

*I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

I. L. FISHER,

*Senior Public Health Inspector.*

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

### NUMBER AND NATURE OF VISITS OR INSPECTIONS DURING 1957

#### *GENERAL SANITATION*

Number of Inspections re Water Supply ....	....	70
Number of Inspections re Drainage of Property ....	....	507
Number of Inspections re Keeping of Animals ....	....	24
Number of Inspections of Moveable Dwellings ....	....	148
Number of Inspections under Factories Act ....	....	28
Number of Inspections of Outworkers Premises ....	....	3
Number of Inspections of Bakehouses ....	....	10
Number of Inspections of Licensed Premises ....	....	2
Number of Inspections re Refuse Collection and Disposal		12
Number of Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ....	....	24
Number of Inspections re Atmospheric Pollution ....	....	7
Number of Inspections of Schools ....	....	1
Number of Inspections re Boiling of Waste Foods ....	....	7
Number of Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ....	....	192
Number of Inspections re Sampling of Water Supplies ....	....	353
Number of Inspections re Sampling of Sewage Effluent ....	20	1408
	—	

#### *HOUSING*

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Act	29	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	66	95
	—	
Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts	135	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	730	865
	—	
Number of Houses inspected re Overcrowding ....	....	26
Number of Miscellaneous Housing Visits ....	....	159
Number of Houses inspected re Verminous conditions	3	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses ....	....	1 4
Number of Houses inspected under Rent Act ....	—	10 1159
	—	
Number of Property Owners/Agents and Builders interviewed ....	....	208

#### *INFECTIOUS DISEASES*

Number of Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	....	9
Number of Visits re Disinfection ....	....	3
Number of Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	....	34 46
	—	—
		2613

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948**

Inspections of the Factories within the District have shown that conditions are generally satisfactory. Any defects or contraventions noted have been of a minor character and all have been remedied as a result of informal action.

The following is a list of Factories in the District.

Bakers and Confectioners	....	....	....	7
Engineering, including Garages	....	....	....	20
Electricity Generating	....	....	....	I
Joinery, woodworking	....	....	....	7
Testing of Flow Meters	....	....	....	I
Coachbuilding	....	....	....	I
Milk Pasteurising	....	....	....	I
Laundering	....	....	....	2
Corn Milling	....	....	....	I
Manufacture of Explosives	....	....	....	I
Sausage Making	....	....	....	I
Vehicle Painting	....	....	....	I
Tailoring	....	....	....	2
Tobacco and Cigarettes	....	....	....	I
Aircraft Testing	....	....	....	I
Instrument Repairs	....	....	....	I
Cine Film Camera Testing	....	....	....	I
Cinematograph Film Manufacture	....	....	....	I
Oil Gas	....	....	....	I
Fruit Juice and Bottle Washing	....	....	....	I
Upholstery and Furniture Repairs	....	....	....	2

## **ERADICATION OF VERMIN**

Very little action has been found necessary during the year. The three cases investigated were all of a minor nature and were satisfactorily dealt with by the use of Proprietary Insecticide with residual D.D.T.

## **OUTWORKERS**

Five outworkers were notified to the Department by other Authorities during the course of the year, all being engaged in the manufacture of knitted wear. Inspections were made of the premises but no action was found to be necessary.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

The Refuse Collection System has continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year, collections being made once weekly in the larger villages and once fortnightly in the smaller ones. All refuse collected in the District is disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tip at Porton Firs.

The separation of saleable materials such as metal and rags is carried out at the Refuse Tip and these articles, together with salvaged Waste Paper, have been sold to contractors.

## **HOUSING**

The provision of adequate and satisfactory housing accommodation is a matter which is constantly in the Council's mind and this difficult task is one with which they are likely to be confronted for some years to come. The building of new houses has continued steadily throughout the year and in the period under review 27 houses were completed and a further 64 were in course of erection at the end of the year. Although a total of 700 houses have now been erected by the Council since the end of the War there is still a long way to go and at the end of the year there were still 434 applicants on the Council's Non-Priority Housing List.

In addition to the houses erected during the year by the Council a further 54 houses were erected by private enterprise and 38 more were in course of erection.

The work of dealing with the properties included in the Council's five year slum clearance programme has continued throughout the year and a number of families from these properties have been rehoused. The number of houses represented for demolition is up to date with the programme laid down but the numbers to be represented will increase during the next two years and the Council should bear this in mind when formulating their house building programmes. Further representations were received from the War Department for the Council to provide alternative housing accommodation for the tenants of 64 hutments which were considered to be unfit at Larkhill, in addition to the 22 hutments at Bulford, in respect of which the Council have already agreed

to provide new houses. Following an inspection of these hutments the Council informed the War Department that they were unable to accept all of these properties as part of their slum clearance programme at this stage, but requested the War Department to continue the policy at present in force, i.e. that when a hut becomes vacant it is not again relet and when a complete block becomes empty, that block be demolished. The Council did in fact rehouse the tenants of some of these hutments during the year. The Council also agreed to accept certain properties owned by the War Department in the Parishes of Orcheston and Tilshead as part of their slum clearance programme.

The total number of applications for improvement grants received during the year was twenty six and involved thirty-three properties. Of these, twenty-one, in respect of 28 houses, were approved, three in respect of three houses were refused and the remaining two in respect of two houses were withdrawn by the Owners. Works of improvement were completed at thirty-one houses during the year. Since the Housing Act, 1949, came into force the Council has up to the 31st December, 1957, approved grants in respect of 139 properties amounting to £37,028 10s. od. which gives an average cost of grant of £266 7s. 1od. per property. It is pleasing to note that in a rural area such as this the largest number of grants (57) have been made in respect of properties occupied by agricultural workers, and of the remainder 40 were in respect of properties which are let and 42 which are owned/occupied.

The following table shows the action taken by the Department under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year.

#### Inspection of dwellings during year.

(i)	Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts.	9
(ii)	Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts ....	135
(iii)	Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation .... .... ....	15
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation .... .... .... ....	122
Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action		56

#### Action under Statutory Powers

##### A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1936, and sections 9, 10, 12, Housing Act, 1957.

(i)	Number of dwellings where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .... .... ....	-
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners .... .... .... .... .... ....	-
	(b) By local authority in default of owners .... ....	-

##### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i)	Number of dwellings where formal notices were served	4
(ii)	Number of dwellings made fit as result of formal notices	
	(a) By owners .... .... .... .... .... ....	8
	(b) By local authority in default of owners .... ....	-

C.	Proceedings under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Section 16, Housing Act, 1957.		
(i)	Number of demolition Orders made .... .... ....	....	3
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of demolition Orders .... .... .... .... .... ....	....	18*
(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted .... ....	....	I
(iv)	Number of undertakings completed .... ....	....	I
D.	Proceedings under Section 25 Housing Act, 1936, Sections 42, 43, 46, 48, Housing Act, 1957.		
(i)	Number of houses in clearance area upon which demolition Orders were made .... .... .... ....	....	—
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of demolition orders .... .... .... .... .... ....	....	—
(iii)	Number of houses in clearance area which have been retained as temporary accommodation .... ....	....	—
E.	Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936, Section 3, Housing Act, 1949, Section 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Sections 17, 18, 27, Housing Act, 1957.		
(i)	Number of dwellings where closing Orders were made	....	I
(ii)	Number of dwellings closed as result of closing orders or undertakings by owners .... .... .... ....	....	I
(iii)	Number of dwellings where closing orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit ....	....	—
F.	Proceedings under Section 57, Housing Act, 1936, Section 76, Housing Act, 1957.		
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year .... .... .... .... .... .... .... ....	....	10
(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year ....	....	6

\*Includes 11 houses demolished voluntarily or in anticipation of Demolition Orders.

### **RODENT CONTROL**

The control measures recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are closely followed by the Rodent Operator under the supervision of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

All complaints received have been investigated and dealt with promptly and the work carried out during the year was efficient and satisfactory. The number of complaints received during the year was greater than the number received during the previous year. Most of the complaints arose during the latter quarter of the year and were no doubt the result of the seasonal incursion of rats on to domestic premises. The systematic survey of the District has continued and has shown that the general overall situation is satisfactory, and in no instance has a major infestation been found.

As a result of satisfactory tests over a number of previous years the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food granted exemption from the test baiting of the public sewers until April, 1958.

The following table sets out the work carried out by the Rodent Operator during the year.

	<i>L.A.</i>	<i>Dwell-ing Houses</i>	<i>All Other</i>	<i>Total of Cols.(1) (2) &amp;(3)</i>	<i>Agric.</i>
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	4	3803	154	3961	127
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of : (a) Notification	-	63	9	72	3
(b) Survey under the Act	4	964	44	1012	82
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	24	-	24	-
3. Total inspections carried out— including re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	8	1090	45	1143	83
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 11) which were found to be infested by : Major	-	-	-	-	-
Rats : Minor	4	173	12	189	47
Major	-	-	-	-	-
Mice : Minor		11	2	13	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 11) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sect. IV)	4	112	8	124	3
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	8	155	11	174	4
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act : (a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of Act	-	-	-	-	-
9. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out		-	-	-	-

## **WATER SUPPLY**

The Public Supplies owned and operated by the Council are in the Parishes of Amesbury, Durrington and Shrewton.

### **AMESBURY**

The heavy demand on this source has been maintained throughout the year and it has been necessary to continue to augment the supply with water from Durrington.

No major extensions have been made to this supply during the year.

Regular bacteriological examinations of the raw and treated water have been carried out and the results have shown no evidence of pollution. A chemical sample was also analysed, the results being as follows :—

Physical Characters.....A clear colourless water. No deposit.

*CHEMICAL*.....Parts per 100,000

Reaction.....Alkaline pH 7.1

Saline and free Ammonia.....Nil

Organic (or " albuminoid ") ammonia.....Nil

Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 degrees C .....0.004

Chlorides .....2.2

Nitrogenas nitrates .....1.0

Total Hardness .....25.0

(a) Temporary .....16.5

(b) Permanent .....8.5

Poisonous Metals .....Nil

Nitrites .....Nil

Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....Nil

### **BACTERIOLOGICAL**

Total Colonies in 48 hours .. Nil .. Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogegenes organisms .. Nil .. Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

### **OPINION**

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

### **DURRINGTON AND BULFORD**

This supply has continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

Small extensions have been made to this supply to serve the Council's new Housing Estate.

The results of the Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of this supply are given below.

Physical Characters.....A clear colourless water. No deposit.

<i>CHEMICAL</i> .....	parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or " albuminoid ") ammonia.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 degrees C. .....	0.004
Chlorides .....	2.4
Nitrogenas nitrates .....	1.0
Total Hardness .....	25.5
(a) Temporary .....	16.0
(b) Permanent .....	9.5
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrites .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....	Nil

#### *BACTERIOLOGICAL*

Total Colonies in 48 hours .. Nil .. Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogegenes organisms .. Nil .. Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B. Coli .. Nil .. Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

#### *OPINION*

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

#### *SHREWTON*

This supply has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year, although the concern over the pump expressed in last year's report still exists. The position will however be alleviated when the pumping equipment, which was sanctioned by the Minister of Housing and Local Government following a report by the Council on the gravity of the situation, is installed to the borehole which was sunk in 1951 as part of the Regional Water Supply Scheme.

No extensions have been made to this supply during the year.

Samples of water have been taken regularly for bacteriological examination and have been found to be satisfactory. A sample was also submitted for chemical examination and the results are as set out below.

Physical Characters.....	A clear colourless water. No deposit.
<i>CHEMICAL</i> .....	Parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or " albuminoid ") ammonia.....	Nil

Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 degrees C.....	0.004
Chlorides .....	1.7
Nitrogenas nitrates .....	1.0
Total Hardness .....	20.5
(a) Temporary .....	9.5
(b) Permanent .....	11.0
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrites .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....	Nil

### BACTERIOLOGICAL

Total Colonies in 48 hours . . 1 . . Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogegenes . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B. Coli . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of water growing at 44 degrees C.

### OPINION

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

### OTHER SUPPLIES

The undermentioned Parishes obtain a supply from privately owned Water schemes :—

Cholderton (Cholderton Water Company)

Wilsford cum Lake (Lake Estate)

Tilshead and Figheldean (Supply taken in bulk from the War Department Trunk Main)

These supplies have been sampled regularly and the water submitted for bacteriological examination. In all instances the water was found to be free from contamination.

A number of small estate supplies also exist and these are sampled regularly.

### REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

After many years the Council's efforts to commence work on this scheme have been successful. Following the visit of a deputation of the Council to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, where the Council's case was very strongly presented, the Minister gave his consent to the construction of the Reservoir at Earls Farm Down, the Pumping Station at Newton Tony and the laying of the water mains to serve the Bourne Valley, including the Firs Road area of Winterbourne. By the end of the year work was well in hand at each of the three sites.

The Minister's consent was also received to the laying of a water main to serve the Parish of Orcheston, and at the end of the year his decision was awaited to the Council's request to provide a mains supply to the Parish of Winterbourne Stoke.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

### **AMESBURY**

This Scheme has worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

Samples of the effluent have been taken regularly during the year and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and all have proved satisfactory.

No further progress was made during the year with regard to the proposed sewerage of Countess Road, Amesbury.

### **BULFORD AND DURRINGTON**

This Scheme has worked satisfactorily throughout the year. The work of connecting the few properties without satisfactory means of drainage was continued during the year.

### **SHREWTON**

Although an inspection of the conditions existing in Shrewton was made by a representative of the Ministry of Health at the Council's request, the Minister's consent to the commencement of this much needed Sewerage Scheme has not yet been received.

The difficulty of the satisfactory disposal of waste matters in certain congested parts of the Parish has become even more acute and the only satisfactory solution to this problem lies in the provision of a proper Sewerage Scheme. Some concern is also felt in the areas of development adjacent to the River Till where the satisfactory working of septic tank installations is likely to be affected by the seasonal rise of the sub-soil water level.

This Scheme remains as top priority on the Council's list of Sewerage Schemes and they have again decided to press their case with the Minister.

## **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

The use of Moveable Dwellings as housing accommodation, particularly in and around the Parish of Amesbury remains a considerable problem, and the site at Kitchener Road still gives rise to some concern. During the year, however, the Council received and approved proposals for the development of a large area of land in Holders Road, Amesbury, as a site for Moveable Dwellings, and when this site comes into operation it is hoped that it will largely solve the present problem.

In other parts of the District, Moveable Dwellings are mostly used as single units and regular inspections have revealed conditions to be generally satisfactory.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

### **MILK SUPPLY**

The supply of milk throughout the District has been satisfactory during the year, most of the milk being consumed being Pasteurised and supplied from the Milk Factory situated at Amesbury.

Regular inspections have been made of this establishment and eighty samples were submitted for bottle washings tests during the year, all proving satisfactory.

Samples of milk have been taken throughout the year from all the Distributors and at farms from which small quantities of milk are sold, and a total of 223 samples were submitted for the Statutory Tests and for Biological examination, the majority proving satisfactory. In one case, where raw milk is sold, organisms of Brucella Abortus were isolated and further visits were made to the premises, samples of milk being taken from each cow in the herd to determine the source of infection. Until the results were known the producer co-operated by sending the milk for pasteurisation and also called in his Veterinary Surgeon.

Within the District there are :—

Registered Milk Distributors .....	10
Registered Dairies .....	1
Dealers Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	10
Dealers Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk .....	10

### *SLAUGHTER HOUSES*

There are no slaughter houses in the District for the slaughter of animals for human consumption, all killing being done in the Abattoir in the City of Salisbury.

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in the District and on periodic visits to the premises conditions have been found to be satisfactory.

Daily visits have been made to the Poultry Packing Station at Amesbury for the purpose of inspecting the poultry killed, prepared and packed at this establishment.

### *ICE CREAM PREMISES*

There is no manufacture of ice-cream in the District. Seventy-five premises are registered for the Sale and/or Storage of ice-cream and routine inspections have revealed that the Regulations are being complied with.

### *WATER CRESS*

During the year it was discovered that persons of the gipsy type were taking a form of water cress, particularly from the River Bourne, presumably for sale in the markets in adjoining towns. Samples of the river water, and the water cress, were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found to be grossly polluted with faecal type coliform organisms. In view of the risks involved in the consumption of this food the Council have erected notice boards in the area from which this cress is gathered, advising against its use for food. A close liaison has been established with adjoining areas and all efforts are being made to prevent this food reaching the public.

## **FOOD PREMISES**

The inspection of food premises to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56, has continued throughout the year.

In the larger villages where mains water and sewerage facilities are available the requirements of the Regulations in regard to washing facilities, drainage and the supply of hot and cold water are not difficult to obtain. In the smaller Parishes, however, where no such facilities are provided, the problem is much greater. Many of the premises consist of the front room of the house where drainage is difficult, and, at times impossible, whilst the water supply, often from shallow wells is known to be polluted. It is perhaps, fortunate that in the majority of these cases no open food is sold.

The number and type of food premises in the area are shown in the following table.

Hotels and Licensed Premises .....	38
Grocers .....	39
Bakers .....	7
Butchers .....	7
Cafes and Restaurants .....	9
Confectionery .....	16
Greengrocery .....	3
Fried Fish .....	2
Fishmonger .....	1
Poultry Packing Station .....	1
	—
	123

The number and type of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows.

Storage and/or Sale of Ice-Cream .....	75
Sausage Making .....	9
Sausage Making, Pies and Cooked Meat.....	1

## **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1957**

Jellied Veal .....	6 lb.
Cooked Ham (Canned) .....	93 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Turkeys .....	2
Chickens .....	1394
Poussins .....	39
Bloaters .....	14 lb.
Yellow Fish Cutlets .....	14 lb.
Mock Halibut .....	12 lb.
Cod Fillets .....	7 lb.
Processed Peas (Canned) .....	8 tins







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*E. H. Perkins and Son, Ltd., Marlborough*

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